

us an account of each species, surely with less attention to its nomenclature and history than the formative state of our science now makes desirable, but rather telling of its life—of its “preference” with respect to food, to texture of soil, to moisture, to light, of its manner of pollination, of its range—both portraying and explaining this—and adding yet much more to that wealth of information which an observational field-botany should make ours.

Soil-chemistry is too fundamental for plant-distribution for me to feel that this misstatement really deserves the pardon for which I am asking.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BOOK REVIEWS

Murrill's Nature Books*

These three books complete the set of nature and character books published by Dr. Murrill during the past year, making a total of about 1,000 pages of text, 129 halftones, and 5 colored plates. The first of the series was reviewed in *TORREYA* for November, 1918.

In all these volumes, which are largely autobiographic, the author seeks to educate and inspire both young and old in a pleasing, indirect way that is quite original.

“The Naturalist in a Boarding School” contains the author's experiences while teaching at Bowling Green and Staunton, Virginia; short essays on various subjects; a condensed guide to bodily and mental health, character training, original epigrams and maxims on a great variety of subjects, and classified quotations from the best literature relating to man; the latter feature consisting of quotations reaching from Epictetus to Emerson and beyond—over 100 pages!

“The Natural History of Staunton” contains many original observations on all phases of natural history—beasts, birds, trees, flowers, rocks, etc.—with colored figures of the more common butterflies and a list of nature quotations.

* “The Three Young Crusoes.” “The Naturalist in a Boarding School.” “The Natural History of Staunton, Virginia.” Written and for sale by William Alphonso Murrill, Bronxwood Park, New York, \$1.50 per volume, postpaid.

"The Three Young Crusoes" is all about three children wrecked on a fabulous West India island, what they saw there and what they learned by the experience.

In Billy the Boy Naturalist, reviewed in an earlier number of TORREYA, the author's gift for seeing things from the boy's point of view was noted as one of the merits of the book. In the last three volumes this gift is somewhat obscured by a mass of quotations, maxims, and epigrams, selected and composed with a catholicity of taste that would stun the average boy. Epigrams and maxims too, however piquant to grown-ups may not be always *virginibus puerisque*.

Writing books like these, even for children, involves an astonishing willingness for self-revelation on the author's part, for it sweeps away some of the reticences of our Anglo-Saxon tradition. While most of us may have passed through the phases of youth upon which the author dwells with such particularity, few have the courage to disclose them. To alter slightly a phrase of Stevenson, who in rare degree understood writing for children, some of us might think that while we are quite capable of writing books like these we prefer not to write them. But the preferences of adults with Anglo-Saxon reticences, who may object to the books, is not likely to weigh much against them so far as children are concerned. And for young people there is in them an undeniable fund of information on natural history.

THE EDITOR.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

OCTOBER 29, 1919

The meeting was held in the Morphological Laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M., Vice-President Barnhart presiding. There were twenty-eight persons present.

The minutes of the meeting held October 14 were read and approved. Dr. Isaac Levin, Mr. Arthur H. Thomas, were nominated for membership.

Dr. Britton spoke of the completion of the new greenhouse presented to the New York Botanical Garden by Messrs. Daniel